

March 2011

The Coastal Connector

A monthly publication keeping our region connected with news and information

2010 Census Counts are here!

By: Allen Burns, Executive Director

According to the 2010 Census Count, our Coastal Region experienced a 17.3% increase in population. National experienced a 9.7% increase and Georgia experienced an 18.3% increase in growth from 2000-2010.

The table below highlights the U.S. Census change in population from 2000 to 2010. Numbers in green indicate that the area exceeded the regional growth rate. Numbers in red indicate that the area lost population. The third column shows the 2005 population estimate from the Georgia Tech population study completed in 2006.

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	2010	2005	2000		2010	2005	2000
	2010 Census	GA Tech Population	2000 Census		2010 Census	GA Tech Population	2000 Census
Bryan County	30,233	30,520	23,417	Glynn County	79,626	75,084	67,568
Pembroke	2,196	3,101	2,379	Brunswick	15,383	17,335	15,600
Richmond Hill	9,281	9,839	6,959	Unincorporated	64,243	57,749	51,968
Unincorporated	18,756	17,580	14,079	Liberty County	63,453	70,237	61,610
Bulloch County	70,217	65,445	55,983	Hinesville	33,437	34,648	30,392
Statesboro		26,534		Walthourville		4,594	
	28,422		22,698		4,111		4,030
Brooklet	1,395	1,301	1,113	Allenhurst	695	898	788
Portal	638	698	597	Midway	2,121	1,254	1,100
Register	175	192	164	Flemington	743	421	369
Unincorporated	39,587	36,720	31,411	Gumbranch	264	273	273
Camden County	50,513	51,558	43,664	Riceboro	809	839	736
Kingsland	15,946	13,765	10,506	Unincorporated	21,273	27,310	23,922
St. Marys	17,121	16,404	13,761	Long County	14,464	13,173	10,304
Woodbine	1,412	1,438	1,218	Ludowici	1,703	1,841	1,440
Unincorporated	16,034	19,951	18,179	Unincorporated	12,761	11,332	8,864
Chatham County	265,128	248,084	232,048	McIntosh County	14,333	12,689	10,847
Savannah	136,286	140,598	131,510	Darien	1,975	2,011	1,719
Garden City	8,778	12,069	11,289	Unincorporated	12,358	10,678	9,128
Port Wentworth	5,359	3,502	3,276	Screven County	14,593	17,899	15,374
Pooler	19,140	10,410	6,239	Oliver	239	295	253
Tybee Island	2,990	3,626	3,392	Newington	274	375	322
Bloomingdale	2,713	2,849	2,665	Sylvania	2,956	3,114	2,675
Thunderbolt	2,668	2,502	2,340	Hiltonia	342	490	421
Unincorporated	87,194	72,528	71,337	Rocky Ford	144	217	186
Effingham County	52,250	47,032	37,535	Unincorporated	10,638	13,408	11,517
Rincon	8,836	6,856	4,376				
Springfield	2,852	2,282	1,821				
Guyton	1,684	1,707	917				
Unincorporated	38,878	36,187	30,421	Coastal Region Total	654,810	631,721	558,350

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2010-2011 CRC Council

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dan Coty, Chairman

Private Sector Representative, Glynn County

Walter Gibson, Vice-Chair

Bulloch County Commissioner

Jim Thomas, Secretary

Mayor, City of Hinesville

Allen Burns, CRC Executive Director

BRYAN COUNTY

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Mayor Harold Fowler City of Richmond Hill

Sean Register Non-Public

BULLOCH COUNTY

Walter Gibson Bulloch Co. Commission

Mayor Joe Brannen City of Statesboro

Dr. Ronald Shiffler Non-Public

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Mayor Bill Deloughy City of St. Marys

Craig Root Non-Public

CHATHAM COUNTY

Chairman Pete Liakakis Chatham Co. Commission

Mayor Otis Johnson City of Savannah

Chris Blaine Non-Public

Two Vacancies

EFFINGHAM COUNTY

Reggie Loper Effingham Co. Commission

Mayor Ken Lee City of Rincon

Herb Jones Non-Public

GLYNN COUNTY

Jonathan Williams City of Brunswick

Chairman Tom Sublett Glynn Co. Commission

Dan Coty Non-Public

Shaw McVeigh Non-Public

LIBERTY COUNTY

Chairman John McIver Liberty Co. Commission

Mayor Jim Thomas City of Hinesville

Robert Stokes Non-Public

Allen Brown Non-Public

LONG COUNTY

Chairman Robert Walker Long Co. Commission

Mayor Myrtice Warren Ludowici City Council

William Miller Non-Public

MCINTOSH COUNTY

Chairman Kelly Spratt McIntosh Co. Commission

Joe Malbasa City of Darien

Jason Coley Non-Public

SCREVEN COUNTY

Chairman Will Boyd Screven Co. Commission

Mayor Margaret D. Evans City of Sylvania

Herb Hill Non-Public

STATE OF GEORGIA APPOINTMENTS

Tom Ratcliffe

Randal Morris

Chap Bennett

Linda Barker

One Vacancy

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Clarence Knight City of Kingsland

Dr. Priscilla Thomas Chatham County Commission

Dina McKain Fort Stewart

Dr. Ben Thompson Chair, Coastal Regional Water Planning Council

Dorothy Glisson Screven County

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Highlights from the Coastal Regional Commission Council Meeting

By: Colletta S. Harper, Administrative Services Director

The Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) Council met on Wednesday, March 9th at the Richmond Hill Quality Inn with 20 members in attendance, representing ten counties.

Action taken by the Council included:

- Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2011 meeting;
- Appointment of Robert Stokes to the Coastal Georgia EB-5 Regional Center Board;
- Approval of Executive Director's Evaluation;
- Approval of Resolution to Transmit Regionally Important Resources (RIR) Plan to DCA;
- Accepted Master Plan as full performance and approve work under contract with CHA; and
- Accepted Recommendations of CRC Staff that DRI 2186 is in the best interest of the state

Other Items to note:

- The CRC will host a HB277 Workshop on March 15th from 9:00-noon at the Coastal EMC in Midway. The workshop is intended for the cities and counties that are not on the Council or Roundtable and are not directly involved in the process.
- Fort Stewart has requested that we hold our CRC Council meeting at their location in May instead of April.
- LiDAR data has been received for Camden, McIntosh and Bryan Counties; the remaining data should be received within a couple of weeks and then it will be distributed to our member counties at the same time. It will be each county's responsibility to manage their own data as they see fit.
- The Tybee Island Shuttle, which is a fixed-route from downtown Savannah to Tybee Island, kicked off Monday. GDOT is giving us flexibility, so we are looking for similar projects throughout our region.
- SB86, which is a mandatory planning bill, has passed the Senate and has moved to the House. The Bill does away with mandatory comprehensive plans, DRIS, and Quality Local Government (QLG) status. ACCG and GMA are promoting this Bill
- The Department of Audits accepted our FY10 Audit with no corrections
- It is time for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan to be updated. Input is encouraged as this document is used to garner funding from EDA.

The next meeting of the Coastal Regional Commission Council will be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Richmond Hill Quality Inn.

Historic Effingham-Ebenezer Route a Legacy of Our State's Treasured Places

By Ron Sadowski, Transportation Planner

A new scenic drive, the Historic Effingham-Ebenezer route in Effingham County has been added by the State Transportation Board to the roster of Georgia Scenic Byways.

On March 17th, a delegation from Effingham County attended the State Transportation Board meeting. The route was officially adopted and representatives from Effingham were presented with framed copies of the resolution.

Byways spread across Georgia – each a special drive and destination unto itself; each commemorating an important time or place; honoring our remembered or forgotten history; or simply reminding us of the beauty and bounty of our state.

The Historic Effingham-Ebenezer route, a 60-mile trip through the towns of Ebenezer, Guyton, Springfield and Rincon, was sponsored by the Effingham Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Salzburger Society and Historic Effingham Society. The route celebrates the beauty of one of Georgia's original eight counties and the history of Ebenezer – founded by German Lutherans seeking religious freedom. "It's a beautiful drive and an area of fascinating history," State Transportation Board Member Bobby Parham of the 12th Congressional District noted.

The Georgia DOT's Scenic Byways Program is a community driven effort which seeks to preserve the legacy of our state's treasured places in ways that enhance both their protection and their economic development. The Coastal Regional Commission assists local governments to utilize state and federal programs to improve communities by providing planning and grant services. For more information on the Scenic Byway program contact Ron Sadowski, Transportation Planner at rsadowski@crc.ga.gov or (912)-262-2883.

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CEDS Update

By: Don Masisak, Economic Development Director

ach year the U.S Economic Development Administration provides funds to the Coastal Regional Commission for the operation and management of an Economic Development Program which provides technical assistance to the Council member counties and cities. A requirement of the contract is to develop and implement a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document which identifies and describes key economic development projects in each county. These projects are presented by members of a CEDS Advisory Committee-comprised of public and private representatives from throughout the 10 county region.

The CEDS document serves as a regional action plan that identifies projects at the local level that can provide the impetus for economic growth and the creation of new jobs. Also with the inclusion of the project within the CEDS document, it can then serve as a validation of need when the applications are submitted to EDA requesting grant assistance for infrastructure projects. The CRC submitted a CEDS document to EDA in 2007 which identified goals and objectives; issues and opportunities; strategic projects and associated performance measurements. Each county identified critical projects with the greatest need which, in many cases, have been funded.

The CRC has initiated a process to begin updating the CEDS document which will incorporate a new project identification list that better reflects the needs, issues and opportunities of today's economic conditions. The first meeting is scheduled with the county economic development authority directors which will begin the identification process for new projects and also begin discussions on the suggestion and need of projects of regional significance to also be a part of the CEDS update.

The 2007 CEDS document can be reviewed on line at the Commission's home page, www.crc.ga.gov and then click on Economic Development and then click on EDA for CEDS Document 2007.

New Addition to Planning &

Government Services

By Lupita McClenning, Director of Planning

evin Sullivan is the newest addition to the Planning & Governments Services

Department. Kevin brings his experience in Planning and GIS having served both in the public and private sector. In his most recent planning position, Kevin served as Planner and City Arborist for the City of Fernandina Beach, Florida. His experience is enhanced by his Bachelor of Science degree from Stetson University. An avid fisherman, he is also a kayak guide for Kayak Amelia providing guided kayak and eco-tourism tours.



Kevin Sullivan Land Use Planner

As Land Use Planner, Kevin is responsible for planning studies and reports. Specifically, Kevin will lead our efforts in these areas:

- Implementation of the Regional Plan
- Joint Land Use Study Ft. Stewart
- Sylvania Housing Infill Plan
- Sylvania Pedestrian Plan
- Comprehensive Plan Updates

Kevin will assist with Developments of Regional Impacts (DRI); collaborate with David Dantzler in GIS, with Chris Emmer in environmental planning, and Ron Sadowski with transportation planning. Kevin can be reached at ksullivan@crc.ga.gov or by calling 912.262.2871.

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Spotlight on Spring Grant Opportunities

By: Sarah Yednock, Grants Specialist

The Georgia Forestry Commission administers two grant programs funded by the U.S. Forest Service: Making the Shade and the Urban and Community Forestry Grant.

Making the Shade is designed to provide up to \$5,000 for planting shade trees at elementary schools. The program objectives include achieving reductions in surface temperature, ground level ozone, skin damage and respiratory problems, as well as increasing green learning environments and energy conservation.

The *Urban and Community Forestry Grant* provides up to \$20,000 to accomplish objectives within the following categories:

- Management plans
- 2. Arborist staffing
- 3. Tree ordinances
- 4. Organizational Development
- 5. Information and Education

Both grant programs require applications to be submitted by May 6, 2011. Grant workshops will be held at different locations throughout Georgia in April. Details are available online at: http://www.gfc.state.ga.us/

The National Endowment for the Humanities offers a *Preservation Assistance Grant* to small and mid-size institutions such as museums, libraries, universities, and local government records offices to improve their capacity to preserve significant humanities collections, including books, archives, textiles, artifacts, photographs, and historical objects. Up to \$6,000 may be requested for staff training, preservation supplies, equipment for environmental monitoring, or to hire a consultant to assist with preservation.

Applications for the Preservation Assistance Grant are due May
1. Information about the many other grants administered by the
National Endowment for the Humanities throughout the year can
be found at: http://www.neh.gov/grants/grants.html

Georgia's Department of Transportation will make \$250,000 available *Innovative Highway Safety Grants* awarded to programs which address one of the following:

- Underage Drinking Prevention
- Administrative Judges Program
- Traffic Records
- Minority Highway Safety
- Law Enforcement Strategies for Highway Safety

Eligible applicants include city and county governments, non-profits, county health departments and local law enforcement agencies. Applications are due in June and can be found at: http://www.gahighwaysafety.org. A mandatory grant application training workshop will be held in May at the GA Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GA.

Marvara Green Elected President of GAIRS

By: Pamela Rogers, Aging QA Specialist

February 17, 2011 meeting of the Georgia Alliance for Information & Referrals Systems, Gateway Program Manager, Marvara Green, accepted the elected position of President after serving as the organization's Vice President for two years. GAIRS is an affiliate of the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems



Marvara Green Gateway Program Manager Current GAIRS President

(AIRS) dedicated to improving access to services for all people through quality information and referral. AIRS provides a professional umbrella for all I&R providers in both public and private organizations. Comprehensive and specialized I&R programs are found in nearly every community and operate as a critical component of the health and human service delivery system.

The Coastal AAA provides information and referral services through our Gateway Department and employs eight staff with AIRS certification. The agency believes in the standards-driven approach of the national alliance and is pleased to have one of its own serving on the GAIRS board.

The Mission of AIRS is: "To provide leadership and support to its members and Affiliates to advance the capacity of a Standards-driven Information and Referral industry that brings people and services together."

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Coastal Georgia AAA Offers Tailored Care Training

by: Pamela Rogers, Aging Quality Assurance Specialist

he Coastal Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging (AAA) continues to support the Division of Aging Services (DAS) in their statewide initiative to implement TCARE (Tailored Care Assessment and Referral) through Georgia AAA's as the service delivery model for serving family caregivers. TCARE Master Trainers, LaQuana Edwards, Marvara Green and Pamela Rogers, provided TCARE training on March 22-24, to seventeen trainees from Heart of Georgia, River Valley, Southern Georgia, Southwest Georgia, Central Savannah River Area, and Coastal Georgia AAA's and staff from the Alzheimer's Association, Savannah chapter.

The coastal TCARE training team is among the seven qualified master trainers in the state introducing case managers to an evidence-based protocol for effectively serving caregivers.

TCARE is a care management process designed to assist care mangers who work with older adults and their family caregivers. Grounded in the Caregiver Identity Theory, the TCARE process is a guided protocol that reflects current knowledge of research about caregiver intervention. The protocol was developed by Dr. Rhonda Montgomery with colleagues from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; UW-Extension, Cooperative Extension Service; and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. To learn more about the TCARE protocol, visit www.tcare.uwm.edu.



Coastal AAA Offers Hope to Families Dealing with Alzheimer's Disease: Georgia REACH

By: Pamela Rogers, Aging Quality Assurance Specialist

he Coastal Area Agency on Aging is excited to offer a great new program designed specifically for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia. Caring for someone with memory loss can often times be overwhelming and stressful. Loved ones don't always know how to handle the many unique behaviors associated with the disease, and depression and burnout are oftentimes the result. We're happy to announce the Georgia REACH program is here to help!

Peggy Luukkonen, case manager for Georgia REACH explains that every part of the program is built around the specific needs of each caregiver. She currently has 6 caregivers enrolled in the program and feedback has been very positive. "Over a six month period of time, we work one-on-one with caregivers in their own homes, giving them tools designed to make their caregiving role more manageable", says Luukkonen. Families are provided with information on Alzheimer's and dementia and are trained on skills to manage changes in behaviors as well as techniques to managing their own stress.

GA REACH is based on several years of research with hundreds of caregivers. These caregivers tried a number of different approaches for caring for loved ones and the most helpful approaches were put together into a single package to form Georgia REACH. No one person with Alzheimer's or dementia is the same, therefore the combination of approaches can be tailored specifically to each caregiver. Families get tips on dealing with problem behaviors like; wandering, repetitive questioning, agitation, incontinence, and sundowning.

One Savannah resident is caring for her husband, reports that she likes the program because she gets to meet routinely with someone to talk about her and her husband's specific situation. She says she is more apt to try the strategies that have been discussed when she knows her case manager will be following up with her. This caregiver has already started using some of the stress management techniques and is pleased because the program "doesn't put everyone in the same category". Another caregiver in Liberty County says that she signed up because she wanted to learn how to take better care of herself. She realizes that she needs to care for herself in order to care for her mother effectively.

There is no fee for participation in the GA REACH program and there are no income or age limits. The program is offered in cooperation with the Rosalyn Carter Institute and is available in all of the communities served by the Coastal Area Agency on Aging. For more information on the GA REACH program or to enroll, call 1-800-580-6860.

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Coastal GeoTools 2011

By Kevin Sullivan, Land Use Planner

embers from the Planning & Government Services
Department attended the Coastal GeoTools
Conference March 2011. The conference is hosted
by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Service's Coastal
Services Center (NOAA CSC) a world leader in coastal science and
management. It focuses on geospatial data, tools, technology and
information for coastal resource management professionals. Coastal
resource managers around the country use geospatial technology
to address shoreline erosion, prepare land use plans, undertake port
and waterfront planning, and protect people and property from
natural hazards. The conference featured presentations by a wide
variety of government, academic, and industry organizations.

This year's conference, held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, focused heavily on building the Digital Coast (http://csc.noaa.gov/ digitalcoast/), a web platform that provides access to geospatial data, tools and technical training. Other session topics covered shoreline change, climate change and sea-level rise, natural hazards, land use and community development, marine spatial planning, data access and management, ever-changing political and financial paradigms and industry trends and contracting. Many of the conference's sessions dealt with topics directly applicable to the management of Georgia's regionally significant resources along the coast. Special interest meetings discussing comprehensive and interactive approaches to mapping sea level rise and inundation are especially important in the context of climate change. Building coastal web atlases to support web-based learning and the sharing of geospatial information were also of great interest, as were the various discussions on coastal hazards and habitat impacts. In addition, the latest technological advancements in the field were on showcase, giving a glimpse of the future direction of the geospatial industry.

Georgia's Coastal Regional Commission (CRC) was well represented at the conference through the attendance of three geospatial professionals. The CRC attendance allowed for networking and sharing of ideas, best practices and partnership building opportunities. Topics covered in the GeoTools conference and the knowledge and experience gained aid the CRC staff in efforts related to the Coastal Georgia Elevation Project (CGEP), the Regional Plan and Watershed Inventory Plans to name a few. Additionally, this knowledge and experience is available to the local governments we aim to serve.

For more information contact the CRC by emailing ddanztler@crc.ga.gov or ksullivan@crc.ga.gov or visit http://csc.noaa.gov/.

Coastal Georgia Elevation Project Wrapping Up

By David Dantzler, Geographic Information Officer

fter three years of intense planning and hard work by a multi-member consortium of federal, state, and local government agencies and private-sector organizations, the first phase of the Coastal Georgia Elevation Project (CGEP) is coming to an end. The CGEP is an effort to collect highly accurate elevation data for the Georgia Coast through the use of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR). The CGEP is funded by local governments, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GADNR), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

LiDAR is a remote sensing technology that uses light pulses to accurately measure the distance from the aircraft to the ground. LiDAR data collection flights for the CGEP were conducted by contractors Photo Science and Fugro Earth Data in March 2010, followed by months of post collection data processing. After post-processing, the data was then sent to a third party firm, Dewberry, for exhaustive quality assurance checks. The diligent work by the involved contractors led to the production of a very precise digital elevation model (DEM) for the CGEP area. The data has been delivered to the Coastal Regional Commission and is currently being distributed to stakeholders. The minimum vertical accuracy standard of 18 cm set forth by the CGEP stakeholders was surpassed and the final accuracy of the delivered product is just over 10 cm. This is due to the high quality standards held by the companies that were chosen to produce the data. The graphic is a representation of the DEM for the CGEP area.

The stakeholders will be using the CGEP LiDAR data for a vast array of projects. First and foremost, FEMA is using the data to produce highly accurate flood risk mapping to facilitate the reduction of the loss of life and property in Coastal Georgia. Other users will be using the data to produce elevation contours, map erosion and sedimentation of our beaches and marshlands, study utility and transportation corridors, assess wetlands and watershed drainage patterns, as well as planning for natural disaster response.

The 2011 City / County Directory is now available online for your convenience. To access the document go to http://www.crc.ga.gov/Pages/news.aspx. Once there, click on 2011 City County Directory.

If you'd like to receive a printed copy, please email Colletta Harper to request one, charper@crc.ga.gov

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Watershed Improvement Planning in Coastal Georgia

By Chris Emmer, AICP, CFM, Environmental Planner

atershed Improvement Plans (WIP) are the next step in addressing Georgia's pollution impaired water bodies. The CRC is currently preparing two WIP's and establishing implementation plans. These WIPs are to be developed over two years and address the information required in Section 319 grant applications, a primary US Environmental Protection Agency (APA) program that addresses non-point water pollution.

The WIP process involves establishing a Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC), made up of local, regional and state stakeholders. The PAC selects the watershed, reviews the information, selects monitoring sites and recommends the best management practices to address the pollution problems. The Coastal Stormwater Supplement (CSS) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) along with local, regional and state stakeholders are participating in the PAC. The PAC selected Jackson Branch in Screven County and the St. Mary's River – Catfish Creek



Catfish Creek with Ken Kessler, Planning Director, Kingsland

to

Miller's Branch Segment for the WIPs. These two watersheds were selected for their different environments, with the purpose of the WIPs serving as models for the other impaired water bodies in the Region.

Local stakeholder meetings were held February 28th for the St. Mary's River in Kingsland, GA and March 1st for Jackson Branch in Sylvania, GA. Local support was provided from local citizens, Ogeechee Riverkeeper, St. Mary's River Management Committee, Satilla Riverkeeper, Camden County, Screven County, City of Kingsland, and City of St. Mary's.

The next step is conducting the Visual Survey of each watershed which identifies and confirms land uses, potential pollution sources and potential monitoring sites. The St. Mary's survey is conducted with assistance from Conn Cole of Camden County, and Camden County Sheriff's Office boat crew, Ken Kessler with City of Kingsland, Phil Jones with St. Mary's River Management Committee, Clay Montague, University of Florida Professor, Alice Vick and her boat crews with EPD, and CRC staff.

Diana Wedincamp, Ogeechee Riverkeeper is instrumental in providing boats and volunteers for the Jackson Branch Visual Survey. Screven County residents and Alice Vick of EPD provided assistance for the completion of the Jackson Branch survey.

Following data gathered from the surveys, the PAC selects monitoring sites and develops monitoring programs which begins in year two of the project. Based on monitoring results and field information, the PAC and local stakeholders select best management practices and establish an implementation process to improve water quality in the watersheds. The ultimate goal is to remove Jackson Branch and the St. Mary's River – Catfish Creek to Miller's Branch segment from Georgia's water quality impaired list.

